



EDDIE A. PEREZ
Mayor

CITY OF HARTFORD

OFFICE OF HUMAN RELATIONS
Hartford Commission on Disability Issues
550 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Telephone: (860) 757-9785
Fax: (860) 722-6486
www.hartford.gov



LILLIAN I. RUIZ
Director

Commission on Disability Issues, City of Hartford

Regular Meeting Minutes, December 3, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Office of Human Relations of City Hall, 550 Main Street, Hartford, CT.

In attendance: Gil Cortez, Office of Human Relations, Chris Kelly, Michael Leyva, Kathy Marseglia, Kathy Pacelle, and Janet Wallans, Chair.

Excused: Candace Low, Linda Schnitzer, Debra St. Germain, Vice Chair, and Cheryl Zeiner.

The minutes for the meeting of November 5, 2008 were reviewed. Kathy M. moved and Chris seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

Regarding the Commission's budget, Gil reported that the Commission still has \$287.59 in its budget. Right now, those funds are still available. He also announced that there might be another staff person assigned to the Commission.

Chris reported that the Commission would not be able to have a table at the Homeless Connect event at the XL center being held on Thursday, December 4. However, he said he would take along information about the Commission and have it available for those attending the event.

Michael explained the circumstances of why he was going to be leaving Hartford. The Commission thanks Michael for all his contributions. He will try to attend Commission meetings if he is in Hartford the first week of the month. He will continue to receive e-mails from the Commission.

Michael reported that the lip at the end of the ramp at Mi Casa has been fixed.

With regard to Claude Holcomb and the Hartford Public Library, Gil reported that Claude has a legal suit against the library and there is nothing new to report about that.

Janet reported that she had contacted the library and that they had not received the letter that the Commission sent last month requesting that the president of the board attend our next meeting. The Commission will send a certified letter to the library's president, Geraldine Sullivan, again. “

Michael said that he had not been able to check on the ramp at Barca's restaurant.

Michael also mentioned that the curb cut near Vito's restaurant had been moved but that the lines on the street needed to be repainted to line up with the curb cut.

Michael also mentioned that a woman whose wheelchair had been broken had contacted him when she was trying to enter Clinical Lab Partners at 85 Seymour Street in Hartford. Janet will measure the door when she is at the building. She will also contact the individual, Kay Samuels.

Transportation:

With regard to snow removal at bus stops, Gil and Janet pointed out that it is necessary to find out whose responsibility it is for a particular bus stop. For some it may be the responsibility of the property owner and for others it may be the city's Department of Public Works.

Education:

As Chris had had to leave early and Debra was not at the meeting, there was no report.

Legislative: No report.

Old Business:

With regard to reviewing the By-laws, Kathy M. moved and Michael seconded a motion to create a by-laws committee. The motion was approved. Chris, Kathy M., Kathy P. and Janet will serve on the committee. It was decided to hold a By-laws committee meeting on Wednesday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Office of Human Relations.

Janet mentioned that she had contacted Lt. Brian Pertillar of the Fire Department regarding the CSI (Community Safety Information) program. He had called back and registered her in the program. Her impression of the program was very positive.

Michael reported that he had not had time to write a letter to the president of the City Council regarding disability training for the Council. This will be left on the agenda to be addressed in the future. There was concern that the Council would not want to appropriate extra funds for this at this time. The cost of the training would be \$300. Michael said that Stan Kosloski's organization would do the training.

Janet reported that she and Debra attended the Freedom of Information Commission's training on November 6. She stated that it was a very informative presentation. She mentioned that the minutes of meetings must be posted seven days after a public meeting.

There was discussion on the need to recruit new members for the Commission. Gil said he would send out another press release to Sarah Barr of the Mayor's office. Janet said she would contact the Board of Education and Services for the blind as well as the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. Kathy P. said she would call the disability offices at the colleges.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Janet Wallans

